

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for instant messaging in a network communication system comprising:

formulating a combined message to a recipient, said combined message including a predictive code and a communications message;

establishing a state variable associated with said recipient, wherein said state variable includes a function;

transmitting said predictive code and said communications message to a recipient;

executing the predictive code at the recipient; and

delivering the communications message to the recipient if the predictive code returns a first value and discarding the communications if the predictive code returns a second value.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further including:

transmitting a modifying code to the recipient that causes a persistent state associated with the recipient to be modified.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein said state variable corresponds to one or more aspects of a state of said recipient.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 13 wherein said state variable is namespaced based on a selected sender of a message.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 13 wherein said state variable includes ~~at least one of a function and~~ one or more parameters.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 13 wherein said parameters include at least one of a state variable name, a sender, and a recipient.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 13 wherein said state variable is at least one of modified by a sender, determined by selected code operating at said recipient, and updated by selected code operating at said recipient.
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~ 13 further including storing a the state variable on a server separate from a recipient.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said code evaluates a state of said recipient.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said a state of said recipient includes whether a messages has been previously received.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further including establishing a security mechanism at a recipient to ensure that code transmitted to, and executed at, a recipient is noninvasive.

25.-28. (Cancelled)